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Here comes The King

King Freddie performed at the Dimensions Queernival on Aug. 21 in Algonquin Highlands. The event kicked off a full week of Pride events around Haliburton County. /Justin VanLieshout Special to the Times

'Why we need Pride'

by EMILY STONEHOUSE
Editor

It's here. The one week of the year where we drape rainbows from the flagpoles and spend a little extra time celebrating love.

It's supposed to be a time of joy, a time of inclusion, a time of progress.

But this year, a dark cloud is looming over the upcoming week.

"A number of negative social media messages have been posted toward Minden Pride," said Pride Chair Allan Guinan. "Certainly there is a sentiment that some are tired of the exposure we receive."

While the Pride committee - a group of dedicated volunteers from across the county - are no strangers to backlash, Guinan said that this year seems to be filled with more negativity than has been seen in previous years.

"I think some of this negativity is based on the ongoing rhetoric from the U.S.," said Guinan, when asked about why this year has been raising more concerns than others. "And with social media, people think they can just say anything or do anything. But it's hard to understand why people would be so passionate about this."

Minden Pride is going into its eighth year, and has grown in both size and recognition in that time. It is now one of the largest festivals in Haliburton County, with a full week of music, art, shows, and celebrations. Each year, the committee dedicates itself to finding a variety of programming that people of all ages would enjoy, and feel a part of.

But the committee doesn't limit themselves to one week. They spend the remainder of the year planning social events and opportunities for members of the 2SLGBTQ+

and allies to get to know one another; a task sometimes daunting in rural communities.

One particular program that continues to be targeted at Pride Festivals not just locally, but across the map, is Drag Storytime. "We will have a police presence at our Drag Storytimes this year," said Guinan, "and we are just hopeful that there will be no incidents."

Guinan also believes that Street Fest has a risk of being more vulnerable, based on the events happening on the main roads in Minden.

This year, the Pride committee has dealt with their flags being torn down throughout the downtown core, their banner cut from the Loggers Bridge and held down at the bottom of the river with rocks, and a series of angry comments, accusations, and homophobic slurs on their social media platforms.

Pride Week kicked off on Aug. 21 with the Flag Raising at the Minden Township office, where colourful groups gathered to celebrate. Speeches were made by Guinan, MP Jamie Schmale, County Warden Liz Danielsen, and Minden Hills Deputy Mayor Lisa Schell.

The principal of Haliburton Highlands Secondary School, Jenn Mills joined the podium to make a speech about Pride as well. She shared that last year, the Minden Pride committee partnered with HHSS to offer their first full Pride Week at the school, where students ran a series of activities and events catered around inclusivity and celebrating individuality. Mills referenced the fact that she herself attended Hal High, "and I know we have come a long way since then," she said. "What you do makes a difference."

The theme for this year's Pride is "love

see FIGHTING page 2

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Land Trust seeks more Partners in Conservation

by VIVIAN COLLINGS
Times Staff

The Highlands Corridor initiative is well underway for the Haliburton Highlands Land Trust (HHLT), and they are seeking the collaboration of more landowners in the area.

The Corridor covers 100,000 hectares of Crown, private, and municipal land in Southern Haliburton County.

HHLT is aiming to have the Highlands Corridor be declared a Conservation Reserve under the provisions of provincial Crown land use designation to protect its wetlands, wildlife, and species at risk.

A reception at Queen's Park in June to speak with Ontario Minister of Environment David Piccini's staff was held, along with 80 other attendees, about naming the 60,000 hectares of Crown Land in the Corridor as a Conservation Reserve.

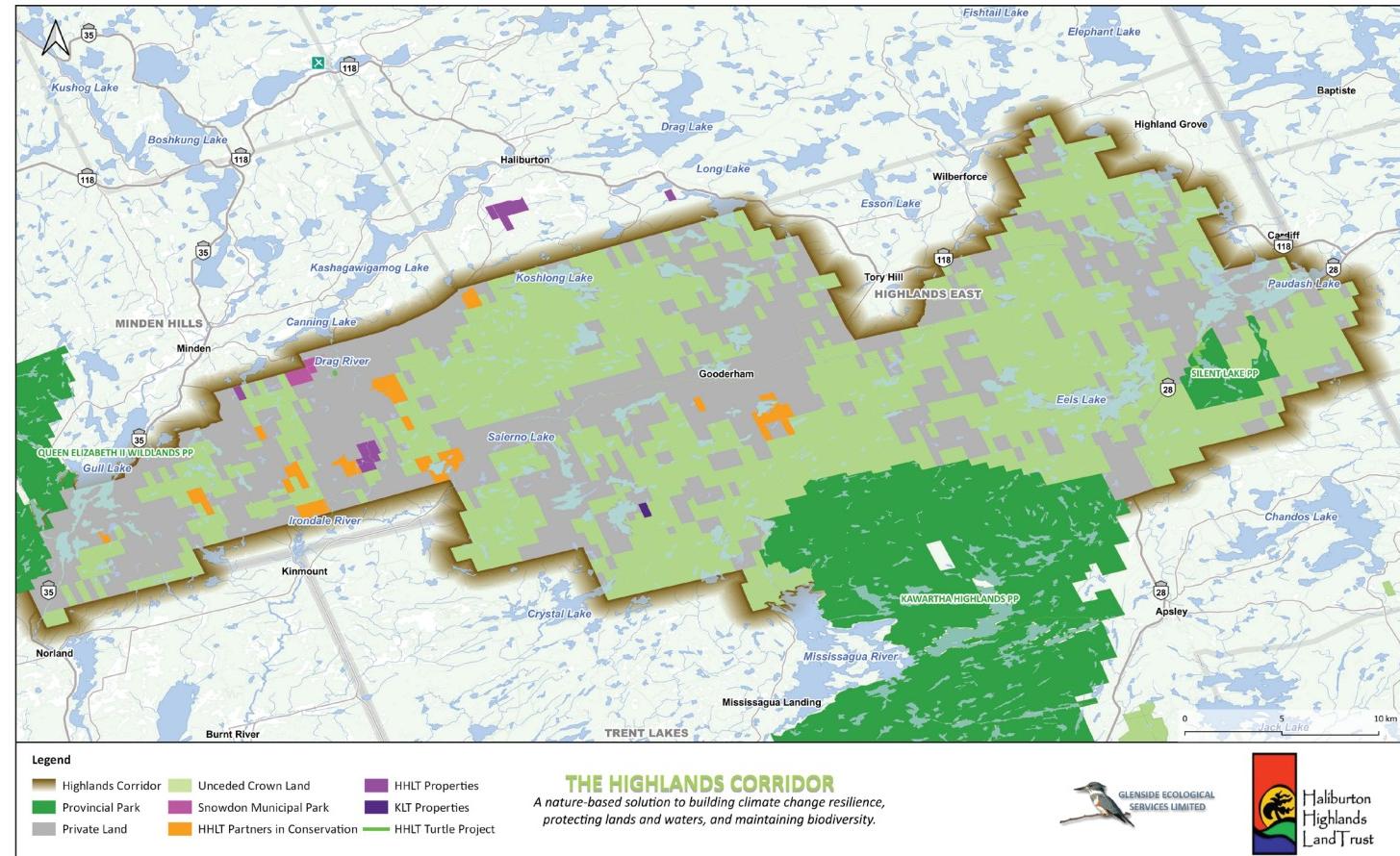
"We were very encouraged to see Prince Edward County designate Monarch Point as a conservation reserve, which I believe is the first one in a number of years. We're hoping that that's setting a trend," said Huw Morgan, member of the HHLT board of directors.

While working towards this goal, HHLT needs a little more help from those that own land within the Corridor.

"The important part now is our Partners in Conservation program," Morgan said "A big portion of the Corridor is Crown Land, but there's a lot of private land as well."

Their Partners in Conservation program is part of the Ontario government's Managed Forest Tax Incentive Program.

Landowners who plan and follow an approved Managed Forest Plan on their property will be taxed 25 per cent of their regular municipal residential property tax rate.



For more information on The Highlands Corridor see locally produced video on the Land Trust website at www.haliburtonlandtrust.ca.

With the help of Paul Heaven, an HHLT biologist, five landowners can become Partners in Conservation and receive the reduced tax rate at this time.

"We get our biologist Paul Heaven to put together, in consultation with the landown-

er, a forest management program that goes through the government process, and if they qualify, they get property taxes, and the forest management program is of course what we're interested in because it conserves the property in its pristine form," Morgan said.

For more information about HHLT's Partners in Conservation Program, visit www.haliburtonlandtrust.ca/2023/06/2023-partners-in-conservation-openings.

Fighting hate with love

from page 1

is love is love" in response to the backlash the event has received over the past year. "We have to counter all this hate with as much positivity as possible," said Guinan.

Guinan noted that the backlash acts as a reminder for the history of Pride. "This demonstrates that there is a certain amount of homophobia that does still exist here," he said, "and that is why we need Pride."

The full list of all Minden Pride events this week, as well as community events held over the year, are available at www.mindenpride.ca or by following their social media channels.



Minden Pride Chair Allan Guinan speaks with Jack Brezina and MP Jamie Schmale prior to the flag raising ceremony to kick off Pride 2023 in Haliburton County.
/Justin VanLieshout Special to the Times



Eighth annual Pride Week underway in the Highlands

by CHRISTINE CARR
Times Staff

The eighth annual Minden Pride Week kicked off Monday, Aug. 21 with the flag raising at the Minden municipal parking lot. There are events running throughout the week to help promote diversity and inclusivity throughout the county and the Pride Committee is still on the lookout for more helping hands to ensure the events run smoothly.

Allan Guinan, chair of the Minden Pride Committee, believes in the ideals this week promotes and looks forward to seeing them in action throughout the community.

"For everyone involved with Minden Pride, the [goals of the week] are to help support the 2SLGBTQIA+ community, but also the importance of demonstrating diversity and inclusivity," Guinan said.

However, the week has not been without its challenges as an increase in hate has been seen across Canada. David Rankin, a member of Minden Pride, outlined the group's concerns.

"There has been an increase in hate in the community, and we are interested in promoting and counteracting the hate. We are trying to promote a positive space. This is why we picked 'love is love is love' for this year's theme," he said.

One primary challenge in organizing this week's events has been the continual need for volunteers. As the week's festivities increase year after year, the group needs more volunteers to help ensure the events run smoothly. It isn't too late to volunteer or attend this week's festivities, as they have a number of options each day for people of all ages. There are a number of jobs volunteers can help with at each of the events running throughout the week.

Wednesday:

- Youth Pride Breakfast: Visit the Youth Wellness Hub from 9 to 12 a.m. for a delicious breakfast in an inclusive, welcoming environment. Join in the games and activities and pick your pronoun pin while socializing with the local community.

- Queer Hip Hop Dance Class: Learn some dance

moves at the Wellness Hub at 7:30 p.m.

Thursday:

- Drag Storytime: Join Auntie Plum at the Haliburton Public Library at 3 p.m. to learn about embracing inclusivity.
- Queer Trivia Night: Join Minden Pride at 6:30 p.m. at the Dominion Hotel for an evening of 2SLGBTQIA+ themed trivia.
- Outdoor Movie Show: Bring your blanket and lawn chair and snuggle up to a screening of a 13+ 2SLGBTQIA+ film. Volunteers can help with set up, take down, and selling of event tickets.

Friday:

- Comedy Night: 7 p.m. at Sir Sam's Ski and Ride enjoy a night of laughter with hilarious queer comedians. 19+ event. Tickets are \$20 and available on the Minden Pride website or at the door. Volunteers can help take photos and take down equipment.

Saturday:

- Divas Dance Party: Starting at 7:30 p.m. at the Haliburton Legion, join pop artist Dani Doucette headlining a night of music, drag, and dancing. Tickets are available for \$30 through the Minden Pride website or at the door. Volunteers can join in the festivities as they help with photos, decorations, take down, and much more.

Sunday:

- Minden Pride Streetfest and River Float: Starting at 11 a.m. check out the over 20 vendors, kids games, face painting, and more on Water Street. From 12-1:30 p.m. join the river parade as you launch a floatie down the river ending at the Streetfest. End the afternoon with a wrap party at Boshkung Social with DJ and the Proud Brew on tap. Volunteers are needed for a large number of different components of the day!

If you are interested in learning more or volunteering at any of the events, reach out to volunteer@mindenpride.ca. To learn more about the individual events, purchase tickets, or read about the work of Minden Pride, check out their website at www.mindenpride.ca.



Bob Fisher shows off his brightest outfit choices at the Minden Pride flag raising. /Justin VanLieshout Special to the Times

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Council and Closed Session meetings are currently being conducted with a hybrid model of in-person and electronic participation in accordance with the Municipal Act. Meetings begin at 9:00 AM unless otherwise noted. The schedule of upcoming meetings are:

August 31 – Regular Council Meeting
September 14 – Regular Council Meeting

Please note Council Meetings are reduced to one (1) meeting a month in August.

Members of the Public are invited to observe Council proceedings by attending in-person or a live-stream link available on the Township CivicWeb Portal at mindenhills.civicweb.net/Portal/MeetingTypeList.aspx or by using the direct link provided in the notice. Meeting agendas are not displayed during the meeting; please download by visiting our CivicWeb Portal at mindenhills.civicweb.net/Portal/MeetingTypeList.aspx. Please note the live stream file/video will be available to the public for the duration of one week after the Council Meeting.

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CULTURAL CENTRE EVENTS

Bateman Family: A Sense of Place is on display in the Agnes Jamieson Gallery until September 2. This personal family exhibit features original paintings and limited-edition prints by renowned artist and naturalist Robert Bateman; Alan, Brad, Jack & Ross Bateman, and photographs by Birgit Freybe Bateman. Original works and limited-edition prints are available for sale. The Gallery is open Tuesday to Saturday from 10 am – 4 pm. Admission is by donation. For more information, please call 705-286-3763, email culturalcentre@mindenhills.ca or look at the events calendar <https://calendar.mindenhills.ca/default/Detail/2023-07-06-1000-Bateman-Family-A-Sense-of-Place>.

Join us under the stars for our final outdoor movie night at the Cultural Centre on Thursday, August 24! We will be presenting Strange World (2022). Don't forget your lawn chair, blanket and snacks! Admission is by donation. No pre-registration is required. This film is rated PG. For more information, please call 705-286-3763 or email culturalcentre@mindenhills.ca.

Haliburton County Public Library – Minden Branch presents the Drag Queen Story Time on August 22 from 3 – 4 pm and Turtle Guardians on August 26 from 12 – 2 pm. Both events take place outdoors behind the Library/Cultural Centre. For more information, please call 705-286-2491.

The Minden Hills Museum & Heritage Village and Nature's Place is open Tuesday to Saturday from 10 am – 4 pm. This week features hands-on science experiments and crafts taking place every day at 11 am and 2 pm including our Volcano Experiments (Wednesday at 2 pm) Victorian Tea Party (Friday at 2 pm) and Rock Painting (Saturday at 11 am)! Admission is by donation. For more information, please call 705-286-3763, email culturalcentre@mindenhills.ca or go to <https://www.mindenhills.ca/en/News/media-release-23-61-minden-hills-cultural-centre-august-programs.aspx>.

OFFICE CLOSURE

Administration Offices and services will be CLOSED on Monday September 4, 2023.

HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION EVENT

Saturday, August 26th from 8AM to 12PM, bring your hazardous waste items to the Minden Community Centre (55 Parkside Street). Paints, aerosols, batteries, cleaners, fluorescent bulbs and more will be accepted. Please visit mindenhills.ca/landfill for a full list of items.

FIRE DEPARTMENT MESSAGE

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Lost history comes alive on Kashagawigamog

by CHRISTINE CARR
Times Staff

Traces of Haliburton Cou history come alive on the Lost Haliburton Boat Tours, a collaboration between the Haliburton Highlands Museum and Captain Paul Dillon of the boat *Lady of the Lake*. With interpreter Tim Hagarty leading the charge, the tours offer a glimpse into the golden era of lodges on Lake Kashagawigamog every Wednesday afternoon at 1 p.m. throughout the summer seasons.

Running for six years now, the tours began as a collaboration between Dillon and Kate Butler, Director of the Haliburton Highlands Museum. The two discussed how they came about with the idea, with much of the research, history, and passion provided by Hagarty.

"There was some sort of potential collaboration we could see for some sort of boat tour and the local history aspect, and exactly what that was going to look like took a while to decide. Tim Hagarty ... has a huge enthusiasm about the history of the lodges ... and expressed his interest in being a part of it and it was a lovely case of all the pieces coming together. One year we decided 'let's give it a try and see'. The first year we did it we just did four tours, but we had this overwhelming reception for it, so the next year we upped it to once a week through the whole summer," said Butler.

Having attended the lodges since he was in his mother's womb in 1946, Hagarty's passion for the local history shines through



Captain Paul Dillon steers the *Lady of the Lake* during the Lost Haliburton Boat Tour hosted by the Haliburton Highlands Museum. /CHRISTINE CARR Staff

in his tours. With 33 lodges existing on the Kashagawigamog Lake Chain in their heyday, and around 70 throughout Haliburton County, there are as few as eight still exist-

ing today. Hagarty cites the contribution of the lodges in encouraging visitors to the area in why the region is such a popular cottage destination today.

"Long story short, I came up here in 1946 to go to the lodges. I've always loved lodges ... it's kind of a neat little history of this area. It was so important to the area, back in the day. There were 33 lodges on this lake, or on this chain, which was unbelievable. That's what got me going, then I just continued on for some unknown reason," said Hagarty.

The people are part of the reason Dillon and Hagarty enjoy offering these tours week after week. The stories and history of the region are ever expanding as many visitors bring their own stories to add to the tapestry of the region.

"It is interesting to see the mixture of people. Sometimes people going on the tours have a history with the lodges and resorts... and they want to reconnect with that history. Some people are just curious about what that part of Haliburton's story is ... or want to see the local lakes from a different angle," said Butler.

Hagarty agreed, stating, "I enjoy the people as well. I enjoy telling stories. We get information from the people whose cousin or great aunt did this or that, then suddenly it gives us a different avenue."

Hagarty plans to continue the tours until he can no longer physically continue, seeing no end in sight to the days spent sharing his passion with visitors and locals alike. For more information, visit the museum website at dysartetal.ca/en/explore-and-play/museum.aspx or call 705-457-2760. Captain Paul Dillon also offers private charters and is highly knowledgeable about the local history. He can be reached through his website at www.hIGHLANDBOATTOURS.COM.

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Impossible Dream to Reality: 20 Years of Canoe FM

by CHRISTINE CARR
Times Staff

Twenty years ago, *The Impossible Dreams* was the very first song that soared through the airwaves of Haliburton County, a fitting tribute to what felt to many like their own impossible dream: a community radio station here in Haliburton County. With their 20th Anniversary coming up on Sept. 26, Canoe FM looks back at how far they have come and how much the community has grown in those twenty years.

On-Air host and chair of the Board of Directors Paul Vorvis reflected on how much work and determination it took for the group he referred to as the "Founding Fathers" to create what exists today.

"There was no radio station here, and a group of people – some of them with some broadcast experience, retired people, cottagers, permanent people – they just got together and said 'this community needs a radio station. Let's do it,'" said Vorvis.

The manager of Canoe FM Roxanne Casey was similarly impressed with what the founders were able to achieve.

"They had to go to the community and had to raise about \$100,000 to start, and they were able to do that. I've got a list of all the people that sponsored the station in the very beginning. There were so many people that filled out support documents saying that they would support a community radio station in Haliburton County, and here we are 20 years later," said Casey.

Canoe FM has many projects in the works to help celebrate their 20 years serving the community. One of the most notable initiatives is the Memory Project: recordings from volunteers and those who helped create the radio station twenty years ago. The initiative was created in order to help preserve the memories and history of these notable

community members.

"One of the reasons why we decided to do the memory project is because we realized that many of our founders have either passed on or are getting quite aged. Once their memories are gone, they are gone," said Varvis.

These recordings will be aired for their Anniversary, and Canoe FM plans to replay them on air and preserve them on their website to honour the memories shared with them.

Looking back on their time with Canoe FM, both Roxanne Casey and Paul Vorvis reflected on how much has changed since its inception.

"In the very beginning, everything was done manually. You would go into the broadcaster and you knew you had to find everything in the system. Now everything is automated so everything is [recorded] and in there. Everything was on CDs, so somebody had to be there to put the CD in. I think that change in automation was huge," said Casey.

Along with changes in technology, the pandemic revolutionized the way many people listen to the radio. With new advances in broadcasting and more and more people listening from home, the small community station became international.

"[The pandemic] coincided a lot with the explosion of devices. A lot of people who used to come to the county as cottagers or visitors, they listened to Canoe FM, and they're now going home and listening to us back home. We get people who are on holidays or traveling and they encounter people in foreign countries. We had people in Australia playing Bingo. One of our on-air hosts was in Portugal and was talking to people there. It ended up that they were listeners to Canoe FM and were listening in Portugal. We have gone from this little station that could to this international presence," said Vorvis.

However, both Vorvis and Casey appreciate how much the support of the community has allowed them to grow and develop over time.

"Over the years, people have appreciated Canoe so much

that they have given back to us ... and all of those proceeds have allowed us to improve and increase our capability. As we grow our capacities then that gives the capability of giving more back to the community, so it is very symbiotic," said Vorvis.

Canoe FM gives back to the community through the support of local businesses and organizations, as well as new initiatives they have in the works. Their new recording studio is one such way they are working to support local talent.

"One of our missions right from the very start is to promote local musicians' music. There is a lot of talent in Haliburton County, but they can't all afford to record their work and get it out there. We have set up a recording studio facility and that is a 20th anniversary project. Local artists can come in, and when we will help them produce their music and even distribute their music, then we play their music as well," said Vorvis.

Looking to the future, Casey and Vorvis are thankful for the volunteers that have brought them this far, and eager to see what the future may bring. "That's why we are celebrating our 20th anniversary – because of all of this history and background and pride that we have in what we do," said Vorvis.

At 20 years young, Canoe FM and the greater community are excited to see what the future will bring to this little station that could. To learn more about the work of Canoe FM or to inquire about volunteering, check out their website at canoefm.com.

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DAVID ZILSTRA
Publisher and Ad Director,
david.zilstra@gmail.com

JENNIFER MCEATHRON, Admin
jenniferm@haliburtonpress.com

DEBBIE COMER, Circulation
debbie@haliburtonpress.com

EMILY STONEHOUSE, Editor
emily@haliburtonpress.com

JAMES MATTHEWS,
Local Journalism
Initiative Reporter
james@haliburtonpress.com

VIVIAN COLLINGS, Reporter
vivian@haliburtonpress.com

CHRISTINE CARR, Reporter
christine@haliburtonpress.com

KAREN LONDON,
Production Co-ordinator
karen@haliburtonpress.com

2 IGA Road, Box 97
Minden, ON, K0M 2K0
• 705-286-1288 • Fax 705-286-4768
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STACEY POTALIVO
Production

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LAURA SMITH, Sales
laura@haliburtonpress.com

PAUL BANELOPOULOS, Sales
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Not up for debate

ON THE eve of Minden Pride 2023, I received an email from the Pride Chair, Allan Guinan.

It was partially an email to get Pride on my radar; a request for some media coverage, as many local events often do.

But it was also an ask for help.

"We need as much support as we can get to make this year a success again, and show that hatred and negativity has no place in Haliburton," he said.

He was referencing the multiple homophobic slurs that the group has received on social media. The rainbow flags that have been torn down. The banner that was cut from the Loggers Bridge and pinned to the bottom of the river with rocks.

Now normally Vivian Collings, the editor of the *Echo*, and I discuss our editorials in advance. We know that we have some overlap in readers, so we try to choose things that offer a different stance.

But not this time. We both decided we needed to write about Pride this week.

Because there isn't a different stance on this one. And this needs to be said.

As I read that email from Allan and let it sink in, a news article from the States popped up while I scrolled.

It was about a woman who was shot dead as she hung a rainbow flag from her store. Her name was Lauri Carleton, and she ran a little antique shop outside of Los Angeles. The suspected shooter had allegedly taken down her flag already, and she was trying to put it back up. That was enough to kill her. She was 66 years old, and a mother to nine children.

On the eve of Pride, I looked over at my husband as we confirmed what time we would be attending the

opening ceremonies. He often plays the bagpipes for these local events; walks out the door with a quick kiss and I see him a little later. We live our busy lives, but I always see him a little later.

But as I looked at him, I thought about how Lauri walked out the door that morning to hang her rainbow flag, and she didn't come home a little later.

"Are you scared for tomorrow?" I asked him. He thought for a moment. He was quiet. We both knew what the other was thinking.

And maybe these things don't happen in our small towns. But if you told me that someone was killed because they hung a harmless flag from their antique shop, I wouldn't believe that either.

As I walked down to the flag raising in our little town, I watched as people hugged one another. As they passed mini rainbow flags around, and sang songs together. Bright colours. Warmth. Laughter.

Smiles. Love. Joy.

How can anyone turn this expression of love into an act of violence? For me, Pride isn't something that is up for debate. This is no longer a question. Love is love, and if that bothers you, then feel free to turn the other way. But there is not a single plausible excuse to incite hatred, violence, or harm upon anyone wanting to live their truth.

Pride is not about fear or hurt or anger. It's just people celebrating their differences, similarities, and joy.

So as Pride Week 2023 kicks off, my wish for everyone is that they feel seen, heard, respected, and loved.

Because hate has no place here. And that's not up for debate.



EMILY STONEHOUSE
Editor

IN OTHER WORDS

Columns and Letters to the Editor

Kwarky



"I don't like the look of juror #6."

Dawn of the living

IRARELY WATCH vampire movies, mostly because I feel more than a little sorry for them. This is partly because they are contractually obligated to wear those dorky capes and out-dated tuxedos, sleep alone in a musty, single-sized coffin, and hang around with bats – none of which is my idea of a good time. But mostly, I feel sorry for them because a vampire is never allowed to see the crack of dawn – and that is when the best fishing and hunting activity generally occurs.

If you think about it – and, believe me, I have – a vampire has very few good legal hunting and fishing options available. After all, daylight activity is off-limits.

Oh sure, they could take up night fishing for walleye – but that's just about the most boring type of fishing there is, especially if your blood-only diet prohibits you from enjoying a good shore lunch. And, yes, if they got themselves a good pack of coonhounds, they could take up raccoon hunting at night. They could also enjoy night fishing opportunities for big brown trout or catfish. Or they could stay up past midnight in an ice hut and fish for ling. Certainly, those things are a little more exciting. But that pretty well sums it up.

I guess that's the price you pay for immortality.

With so few options as well as the risk of being melted by direct sunlight, I don't think it would be a stretch to assume that your average vampire detests the crack of dawn – perhaps even more than the spouse of an early rising hunter or angler. Which is saying a lot.



STEVE GALEA
Beyond 35

In contrast, the average outdoorsperson loves that time of day. This and the fact that they never have to panic when someone says, "Hey! I brought steaks" are the two most significant things that set us apart from vampires. I was going to also add the two oddly shaped teeth, but I've been to enough hunt camps to know that's not the case.

In any case, dawn is a prime time for hunters and anglers. It has been this way ever since the first wild rooster crowed outside a cave, and the hunter's wife elbowed him in the ribs and said, "Go kill it."

Since 5:43 a.m. on that day, we hunters and anglers have been morning people. That's because we have come to understand that most fish and game species are active for one reason or another once the sun comes up.

Aside from upping the odds of hunting and fishing success, there are many other great reasons to be up before dawn. First and foremost, if we slip out of the house in the darkness, we can avoid addressing the tasks on our honey-do lists.

Also, we get to see the stars just before they fade, and we can watch the world wake up as the sky slowly sheds the darkness. And we can feel the warmth of a new day and marvel at the bird songs and the complexity that accompanies nature's rush hour.

But the best reason is because when the sun is rising the fishing is at its best. Which again causes me to be a little more sympathetic towards vampires. It must be very hard on them to miss a bite that good.

IN OTHER WORDS

Columns and Letters to the Editor

Apocalypse Today

SCENES OF utter devastation from Maui, Hawaii, the Yellowknife, N.W.T. and B.C. wildfire evacuations, plus the Halifax flash flooding bring to mind a single word: Apocalypse.

We are living a real life apocalypse as fires, floods and drought bring destruction and death. Record wildfires in North America, killing heatwaves in India, Pakistan and Australia, typhoons in Asia and record-breaking rainfall in the U.K. and parts of Europe confirm today's apocalypse as a global event.

Elon Musk, the business magnate baptised Anglican but now claiming no religious affiliation, issued an apocalypse warming last year, predicting the end of mankind.

Apocalypses are common in Biblical texts and usually refer to an intense confrontation with God in which destruction of evil and the end of time bring divine justice and the visibility of God's rule.

I prefer to understand apocalypse as a revelation, which is the true meaning of the Greek word apokálypsis from which the English word is derived.

Apocalypses are devastating events but they reveal how our lives can be better by changing the lifestyles that brought about the apocalypse in the first place.

Surely no intelligent person doubts that global warming is causing the damaging weather events we are witnessing. And, there can be no doubt that human lifestyles are major contributors to climate change.

We are beginning to accept that our ways of living must be changed if we are to avoid what Musk calls the end of mankind.

Many governments are committed to reducing climate changing emissions to zero by 2050. They are investing in renewable energy alternatives to fossil fuels, reducing environment damaging items such as plastics and promoting more ways of green living.

But governments are cumbersome and slow. They are incapable of reducing global warming on their own. They need a committed partnership with business to effectively change policies and practices. Businesses exist to make money, however, and changes will hit corporation bottom lines.

Collective action is needed and will be achieved only when individuals become deeply committed. That requires individuals to make better choices about where they get their energy, what foods they eat, what items they buy and how they travel.

More than that, individuals need to pressure governments and businesses to change policies and practices. Governments need individuals to vote for them and businesses cannot survive without customers so individuals can be a powerful force in making change happen.

Will individuals take today's climate apocalypse as a revelation that we must make major changes to the way we live? That's questionable.

Think about how filmmaker Francis Ford Coppola warned us back in 1979 about the futility and absurdity of war. His brilliant Vietnam War film *Apocalypse Now* portrays war's damaging psychological effects on humans and how it indulges the darkest, ugliest parts of human nature.

Yet here we are more than half a century later with *Encyclopedia Britannica* posting an article on the eight deadliest wars in the still young 21st century: The Second Congo War, Syrian Civil War, Darfur Conflict, Iraq War, Afghanistan War, The War Against Boko Haram, Yemeni Civil War, Russia-Ukraine War.

Those are just the eight deadliest of the 32 conflicts now ranging in various parts of the world.

Whether we learn enough and make the changes needed to stop the current fire-flood-drought apocalypse from destroying the planet remains to be seen.

There is hope, however.

A 2021 study of 10,000 young people 16 to 25 in 10 countries found 59 per cent said they are extremely or very worried about climate change. Most of those also said their feelings about climate change negatively affect their daily lives.

Youth organizations such as Zero Hour, Earth Uprising and Climate Cardinals have been growing in recent years and are working to find solutions to global warming and climate change.

The United Nations has expressed confidence that youth will find a way to make changes that will prevent the planet's final apocalypse.

Says a UN web page on climate actions:

"Young people are not only victims of climate change. They are also valuable contributors to climate action. They are agents of change, entrepreneurs and innovators. Whether through education, science or technology, young people are scaling up their efforts and using their skills to accelerate climate action."

Here's hoping!

letters to the editor

Students need clean air

To the Editor,

The start of the school year is just around the corner and we at Ontario School Safety (OSS) are concerned that the Ontario government has yet to share any sort of plan to improve air quality in our schools to make it safer for students and staff.

Why is clean air important? Ventilation and filtration in school buildings and buses are our first lines of defence against air pollution and infectious diseases. If students are required to attend school under the Ontario Education Act, then the Ontario government is responsible for providing a safe and healthy environment — including clean air.

Last fall, Ontario students were hit hard by the "tripledemic" of flu, RSV, and COVID-19. Ottawa's children's hospital had to call in the Red Cross because they were so overwhelmed. This year's tripledemic season is predicted to be worse as a result of wildfire smoke exposure and a failure to make the changes to schools and buses needed to avoid it. If last year's tripledemic led to the near-collapse of healthcare systems nationwide, then we should be doing everything in our power to improve indoor air quality in

schools to make sure it doesn't happen again this year in Ontario.

We know that last year, absences due to illness were drastically higher than previous years for both students and education workers. Illness in schools has a direct effect on the health of the community and the economy. Everyone suffers when we continue to do nothing about improving indoor air quality in Ontario schools and buses.

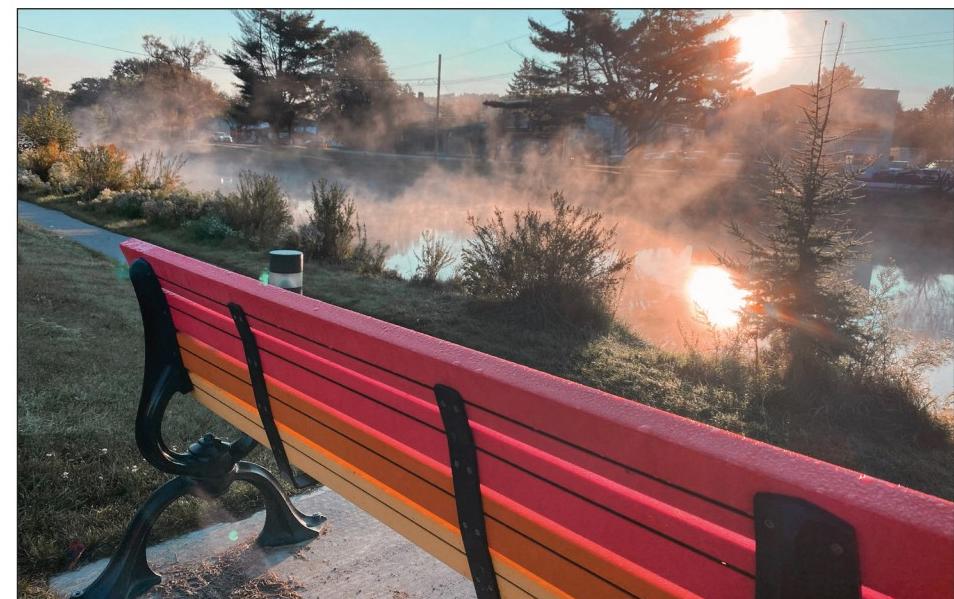
We need our government to do everything it takes, as quickly as possible, to clean the air in schools for our students and education workers. We've observed the cool and clean air at Queen's Park. We're asking the provincial government to provide the same for schools — with some of that \$22 billion of our tax dollars they didn't spend this year.

We have the tools. We need our leaders to step up. Now is the time to prioritize indoor air quality and provide a safe September. Our kids can't wait.

Dr Heather Hanwell, PhD MPH MSc
Toronto



JIM POLING SR.
From Shaman's Rock



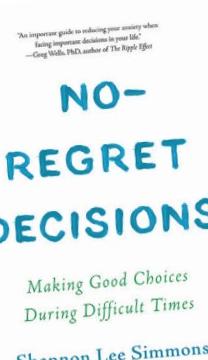
A seat with Sinc

A misty morning on the Gull River in Minden before the Pride festivities kick-off.
/EMILY STONEHOUSE Staff

Correction

In the story "Hitting the road for healthcare" published on Aug. 16, it was noted that the coalition referenced is the Haliburton Highlands LTC Coalition and the umbrella group is Ontario Health Coalition. The votes collected were over 400,000 province-wide, not 40,000 as noted, and the phone to reach Bonnie Roe is 705-457-6579.

HCPL's Book of the Week



Every one of us will face an unexpected decision crisis in our lives. *No-Regret Decisions* is a playbook that will help you to make sound choices when the emotional and financial stakes are high. From the initial shock of Panic Mode to the insecurity of the Messy Middle, and finally, the acceptance of Your New Normal, Shannon Lee Simmons will teach you how to approach your decision crisis methodically, step by step. In the end, you will be proud of the choices you've made, have hope for the future, and emerge from the crisis stronger and more confident than before.

No-Regret Decisions by Shannon Lee Simmons is available to borrow from the Haliburton County Public Library.

Upton's generosity recognized with prestigious award

by VIVIAN COLLINGS
Times Staff

Audrina Upton is the true definition of selfless.

By constantly going above and beyond for her community and individuals in it, her tireless work has been recognized by MP Jamie Schmale.

Upton was awarded with the Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee Coin for her outstanding community work.

"The world's not an easy place, and everybody can use a helping hand sometimes, but not everybody's up front to ask, so sometimes you have to just step up and offer," Upton said to the *Times*.

Upton grew up in Wilberforce, attended Haliburton Highlands Secondary School, and has been working for Tim Horton's for 13 years, the first 10 in Minden and as manager in Haliburton for the past three.

"I met Jamie Schmale's assistant Andrew Hodson when he was working for the John Howard Society. At the time, he had an elderly client who had a big flood in her house, so she needed to be housed at the motel for a bit while repairs were happening, and it was the middle of winter," Upton said. "Even though the store was right across the highway, her mobility made it difficult for her to get her own meals."

Hodson called Upton at the Minden Tim Horton's across the road from the motel.

She quickly agreed to help in any way she could.

"Between myself and all the staff, we walked over breakfast, lunch, and dinner to her everyday and helped with some of her other deliveries," Upton said.



Audrina Upton is pictured on Tim Horton's Camp Day with her Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee coin given to her by MP Jamie Schmale. /Submitted

To make the situation more difficult, this was all happening during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"I ended up really connecting with her - I don't have any grandparents left, and I just started going over more often and spending some time with her after work to keep her company. I'm a mom of three children, so we brought the kids over at one point to play outside and make a snowman to brighten her

day. It was a really beautiful little union," Upton said.

A situation that was only meant to last for about a week turned into two-and-a-half months due to a tragic fire at the woman's house.

"The store itself continued with its deliveries, and myself and my family naturally continued spending time with her," Upton said.

But this wasn't out of character for the Tim's manager.

Among other instances, she also became a support system for another friend suffering a loss and helped facilitate fundraising for funeral costs.

"I stopped in for moral support visits, brought the kids, took her grocery shopping, helped with doctor's appointments, those kinds of things," Upton said.

Another big part of Upton's life is organizing Tim Horton's Camp Day fundraisers.

"Camp Day's always been one of my huge passions. It's one of the most local-based charities we have in our community," she said. "This was my 12th Camp Day event and my second at the Haliburton location."

Proceeds from coffee bought inside the store and money raised from other Camp Day activities like a silent auction are used to send youth in difficult situations to a week of camp at one of Tim's various locations.

"Being a Camp Day supporter is one of the best things you can do in our small town because you're genuinely helping change the life of a child by just grabbing a coffee on the day of or making a donation at the auction table," Upton said.

She said the Haliburton store had their personal best this year by raising over \$6,000 on Camp Day.

"Obviously the more money we raise, the more kids we can send to camp," she said, and credited volunteers, Tim's staff, and local children for helping make it happen.

"I had five kids camp out with me in the store the night before, and they were troopers helping out the next day. I could not have made that day happen without their support, and we couldn't have done it without the support of the community too," Upton said.

In December of 2022, the Haliburton store received exciting mail.

"Jamie, he sent me the award to the store. It was kind of a Christmas miracle, if I'm honest," she said. "I was going through a few rough things personally at the time, and the award showed up in the mail, and it seems like everything else fell into place after that."

The award to her signifies the importance of acting selflessly and helping the community.

"One of the coolest parts about receiving that award from Jamie was being able to take it home and show my kids that this is what hard work and perseverance does, and that it's important to do the right thing even if nobody's looking," she said. "It's little things that make the world go around."

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How do you know?

We live in a time of a lot of information and very little certainty. And that makes us uncomfortable, since human beings, by nature, have a pressing need for certainty. We kinda like black and white: grey makes us queasy. The battle to pin down Truth is therefore as old as mankind.

The battle has been fought in many ways. In 1850s *Middlemarch*, Casaubon,



FAY MARTIN

Poke, Peel, Pair, Ponder

the 50-something pedant, compiles tidbits from Greek and Latin classics to discover the Key to All Mythologies: a bit like a pre-digital ChatGPT. Young Ladislaw, travelling in Europe, knows that the new ecclesiastical truth is being explored through ardent argument in German. Casaubon does not read or speak German, rather like many of my generation are illiterate in technotalk. Dorothea, the gender-challenged, intellectually-aspiring naif, wishes that this rampant race for Truth, regardless of how it is practiced, will result in something that improves the daily life of mainstream people.

Jill Lepore, in an article in the Apr 3/23 *New Yorker* entitled *Data-Driven*, explores the current mud-wrestling for the true source of Truth. She starts with a delicious send-up of what the development of Artificial Intelligence would look like if it were humanized: under-employed univer-

sity graduates are paid to read books, the books are burned, the brains are pickled and stored in jars on a shelf. She adds a metaphorical imagining of the consequences of the unacknowledged insufficiency of combining those brains: the Truth is there are safe and poisonous fungi but the lesson fails to adequately identify the difference and the teacher takes no responsibility for – is blissfully ignorant of -- the deaths that ensue. Lepore proposed a welcome typology of knowing that goes beyond the current love affair with ‘Data’, as if it were the only place you can find any answers, as if only data tells because only data sells.’

There are four kinds of knowing, she says, and visualizes them as organized for accessibility in four drawers entitled ‘Mysteries’, ‘Facts’, ‘Numbers’ and ‘Data’. In the top drawer, closest to Heaven, are Mysteries, things only God knows, ‘like what happens when you’re dead.’ People use theology to discern Truth for the purpose of achieving salvation, whatever that is determined to mean.

In the Facts drawer, which began to fill when Science was discovered, are ‘things humans can prove by way of observation, detection, and experiment’ studied through ‘law, the humanities and the natural sciences.’ I think it is essential to existence that we act as if many things that are unprovable are indeed facts, but this is the core of countless unresolvable arguments between myself and my brother, who is an engineer and professes to believe that people operate in an if-this-then-that linear way, and can’t likely be laid to rest in this paragraph.

The Numbers drawer holds ‘the measurement of anything that can be counted’.

Statistics were originally defined as numbers gathered by the state, associated with the rise of public administration, the handmaiden of social sciences. Governments – ah we do know this – use statistics to describe the world they govern and base action on that Truth. (The phrase ‘lies, damned lies, and statistics’ is attributed to Mark Twain but the sentiment almost certainly predated and absolutely certainly outlived him. Indeed, it is the core of what is taught in statistics courses. I sought the assistance of a well-respected quantitative researcher – one who discovers Truth statistically – to assist me with this small but mandatory element of my doctoral work. She started by saying ‘Tell me what you want to prove and we’ll figure out how to do that.’ And that’s a fact.) The argument my brother and I consistently have is whether aggregate Truth – the norm, the usual – is adequate Truth.

Data ‘holds knowledge that humans can’t know directly but must be extracted by a computer.’ The job of computers is to mine

data for patterns which then inarguably define Truth, statistics on steroids. Which is then used predictively: if we do this, that will happen. Data is created by the recently arrived toy-boy data science, which Lepore says is associated with ‘late capitalism, authoritarianism, techno-utopianism’. This may be the basis for concerns the people who developed and delivered Artificial Intelligence have recently shared, that the Frankenstein that data science created – because it could and therefore should -- may indeed become the master. (This is not yet a fact. Certainly it is a mystery. Primarily its support comes from numbers, in particular economic prognostications, which, as we well know, describe reality in a way that blurs differences – e.g. safe and lethal fungi, or, say, economic inequality -- that are literally a matter of life and death.)

We’re in deep do-do if we buy that ‘only data tells because only data sells’. I’m with Dorothea, enthused about any – all?? – kind of knowing that benefits the mainstream of people.

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Paddling the Gull River

Rotary Park to Gull Lake

by RICK WHITAKER
Special to the Times

It is 6.5 kilometres from Rotary Park just north of Minden to the mouth of Gull Lake, where “going with the flow” is the right way to go. Gently nudging you along, the current is like a breeze at your back. Arranging a pickup or shuttle will be necessary for this linear paddle.

For this trip, I decided to travel on a stand-up paddleboard (SUP). I find the vista from the standing position is a better vantage point to see underwater movement, and these boards are also ideal for paddling into shallows to explore. Another benefit to stand up paddling is that you can kneel, sit, dangle your feet in the water, lie down and even do yoga if you are so inclined.

In 15 minutes, I am paddling parallel to the popular Riverwalk Trail in Minden where the bustle of this small town envelops the river. Be prepared to wave and say hello to dog walkers, pram pushers, speed walkers, bikers, and strollers alike. This river section through Minden is quaint: the vibrant colours of flowering baskets, wood carvings, rainbow benches, a giant, white ice cream cone and other colourful attractions adds a vibrant sensory component to the paddle through town.

Once past this busy area, the river soundscape changes. The soft hubbub of town is replaced by towering trees, thick shrubbery, and the twitter of bird song. A female Red-

winged Blackbird chatters, hovered near me, urging me to move on past its breeding site. I recognized the fluty song of the House Wren and the sweet song of the Red-eyed Vireo. A Great Crested Flycatcher silently landed on a bare branch nearby, and a Belted Kingfisher did a twisting, torpedo-like flyby. A pair of mallards blast out of their hiding spot, hardly leaving a ripple in their wake. There always seemed to be something moving in this section just past Minden.

Some stretches of the Gull River are very natural: craggy, old willows and other mature trees drape themselves over the river giving paddlers a natural canopy to paddle or rest under. These shady spots help keep the river cool and, therefore, healthier, supporting more wildlife including fish. I saw several private landowners naturalizing their shoreline, planting or leaving to grow a buffer of vegetation at the river's edge, helping to keep the geese from grazing and to reduce shoreline erosion.

There are also sections where the river narrows and cottages and residences are clustered together. One section might be called Pontoon Alley where several pontoon boats line both sides of the river. It is easy to imagine a person reading the *Minden Times* on their dock.

About 5 kilometres downstream from Rotary Park there is a boat launch and grassy knoll to stop for a break, a snack, or a picnic. This is also a good spot for a swim if a full river immersive experience beckons.



Sections of the Gull River feel very natural and wild. /Rick Whitaker

There are several interesting things to see on this paddle. There are funky dock and deck designs, fluttering hawk kites to deter geese and even a small, colourful “bottle”

tree. To my surprise, I also ran into two pairs of Muscovy Ducks, the kind of ducks more commonly found on ponds in urban parks. Wild Muscovy Ducks live in coastal and lowland habitats from northern Mexico to Argentina and the lower Rio Grande Valley of Texas.

Far from their wild range, these domesticated ducks are large, with warty, red heads. The two pairs were on either side of the river, one pair was brown and white and the other mostly black. While I drifted by, two ducks did what I can only describe as a dip, splash, shimmy and shake display. I have seen loons do a similar display with a little less gyration than these odd-looking ducks. It is strange to see them on the Gull... not clear why they are here or how they will survive the winter.

In the last few hundred meters, the river picks up some speed, however by staying to the left side I kept out of the main flow and eddied gently into the calm waters of Gull Lake. After 2.5 hours of drifting and paddling, I met one kayaker, had one riverside chat and several friendly waves to people along the way. I did not meet a motorboat, a rare experience along this stretch of the Gull.

Going with the flow on the Gull River is a great way to experience slow river travel. A paddle through diverse habitats, from busy public spaces to areas of wildness on this section of this wonderful river running through the heart of Minden Hills.

THE *Studio* TOUR

HALIBURTON HIGHLANDS

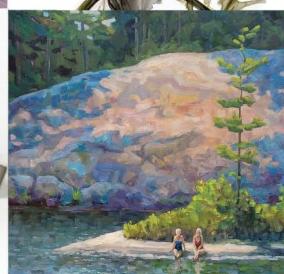












2023



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Board Game Cafe

When: Aug. 31, 7 to 9 p.m.
Where: Sirch Bistro and Bakery
Do you love board games?? Then join us every other Thursday to get social and play with new friends and old! Bring your favourite games or play one of ours! Snacks and beverages available by donation!

Karaoke Contest at the Drop Zone!

When: September 24th, at 2pm
Where: West Guilford Recreation Centre, 1061 Kennisis Lake Road
Please join us at the Drop Zone for our September Karaoke Contest! Entry is free with cash prizes for top 3 contestants, and prizes for all who participate. Participants are asked to arrive early so we can start at 2. Register with your name(s), age(s), and choice of song by emailing info@thedriverzone.xyz or by visiting our website www.thedriverzone.xyz.

Soil Building and Mulching

When: Tuesday Sept. 5, 7 p.m.
Where: Minden Community Centre, 55 Parkside Street
Minden & District Horticultural Society invites you to come and listen to our guest Speaker Debbie Barnhart, Master Gardener on the topic of soil building and mulching. Visit mindenhorticulturalsociety.ca for more information.

Minden Legion Branch 636

Lunch - Monday to Friday

Monday: Rug Hookers every second week. Bid Euchre 1 to 3 p.m.

Tuesday: Food 5 p.m. Canoe FM Bingo 6 p.m.

Thursday: Cribbage 1 to 3 p.m., Darts 7 to 9 p.m. and Euchre 7 to 9 p.m.

Every other Friday: Karaoke 8 to 11 p.m. Friday Fish & Chips & Wings. Lunch 11a.m. to 2 p.m. and Dinner 4 to 7 p.m.

Every other Friday Karaoke 8 to 11 p.m. Saturday All Day Breakfast 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. with three Meat draws at 11 a.m. Call ahead any day for take-out: 705-286-4541

Coboconk Legion Yard and Craft Sale

When: Sep. 16, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Where: Coboconk Legion, Hwy 35 & 118
Join us at the Coboconk Legion for a yard and craft sale. BBQ hot dog and hamburger lunch will be available. Vendors can sign up by emailing info@cobonklegion.ca or calling 705-454-8127. Please visit www.cobonklegion.ca for more information.

Provincial Liberal Candidates BBQ

When: Saturday, Sept. 16, noon to 3 p.m.
Where: Rotary Park, Minden
Adil, Bonnie, Nate, Ted, and Yasir are all vying for leadership of the Ontario Liberal Party. Come meet and speak with them in a casual setting and have a burger on us! Bring a friend or two or

Schedules are subject to change without notice. Check our Facebook page [Minden Legion Branch 636](#) for more info.



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A photograph of a young girl with dark hair, seen from the side and back, sitting at a light-colored wooden desk. She is wearing a grey t-shirt and is holding a pencil, writing in a white notebook. In front of her is an open laptop displaying a video conference. On the screen, a teacher in a blue shirt is pointing towards a chalkboard, and several other students are visible in smaller video windows. To the left of the laptop, there's a green cup with straws. To the right, there are two small potted succulent plants. The background is a bright, slightly blurred indoor setting. A red diagonal bar with a subtle speed-line texture runs across the bottom of the image, containing the contact information.

**705-313-5579
chrisv@nftctelecom.com**

Boshkung Brewing Co. helps launch new campaign

Boshkung Brewing Co., a member of the Ontario Craft Brewers (OCB), helped launch the Keep Craft Beer Local campaign at its brewery in Haliburton County. The goal of the campaign is to raise awareness that high taxes are the biggest threat facing Boshkung Brewing Co. and local craft breweries and to call for tax fairness so we can stay in our community and keep brewing the amazing beer we all love.

"We are proud to call Minden and Haliburton County home because local is what makes craft beer craft – and our local breweries like Boshkung Brewing Co. are where we gather, where our friends and neighbours work, and are part of the fabric of our communities," Mathew Renda, General Manager, Boshkung Brewing Co. "But the future of our brewery and the craft beer community is being put at risk by the fact that we currently pay the highest taxes of any craft brewery in Canada. We are excited to launch the Keep Craft Beer Local campaign because tax fairness for local breweries like ours will help us grow and succeed and ensure the craft beer you love keeps being brewed right here in our community."

Ontario has some of the best craft beer in the world, but the current beer tax system is putting the future at risk. For example, the craft beer tax right for Ontario brewers is eight times higher than breweries in Alberta where a fairer tax regime has allowed the craft beer industry there to grow at a much higher rate.

Lowering the tax burden on our local craft breweries will help breweries like ours hire more people, invest in our brewery, and build stronger communities. In fact, a recent study by the Canadian Centre for Economic Analysis (CANCEA) found that with the right tax and regulatory changes, Ontario's craft beer sector could grow by an additional 40 percent, and in turn create over a thousand new jobs in communities right across our province.

The new campaign, which will run over the coming months, will be anchored by the informative website, www.keepcraftbeerlocal.ca which encourages craft beer lovers to use their collective voice to support our local breweries and call on the government to make craft beer taxes fair. It will focus on mobilizing local breweries and craft beer lovers

from across Ontario to visit the website through a variety of outreach tools, including:

- Digital Advertising;
- Media Outreach;
- Presence at Craft Beer Festivals and other Community Events; and,

• Direct mail postcards to breweries across the province

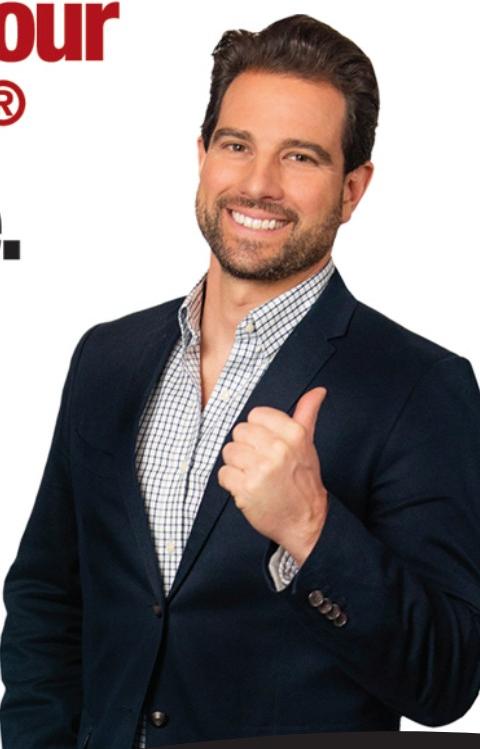
"The campaign's message is simple – local is what defines craft beer and we need to build a tax system that is fair for Ontario craft breweries like ours and helps keeps craft beer local. We encourage everyone to visit www.keepcraftbeerlocal.ca and let the government know that local Ontario craft beer matters and that we need to make sure we can keep brewing outstanding beer, creating good local jobs and supporting the community we love so much," said Renda.

Submitted



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MINDEN Music



People get up and dance as the Country Jammers perform a drive-in style concert at the Minden Fairgrounds on Friday evening.



Jamming in the country

The Country Jammers performed a drive-in style concert at the Minden Fairgrounds on Friday evening. Concertgoers pulled up in their vehicles to enjoy some live music while others braved the weather and sat on lawn chairs to take in the performance.
/ADAM FRISK
Special to the *Times*



The Country Jammers perform at the Minden Fairgrounds on Friday evening.

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Rotaract fundraises to fill gaps in community

by CHRISTINE CARR
Times Staff

Rotaract Haliburton Highlands has been off to the races this summer fundraising for local initiatives across the county. With the recent success of the Highland Yard Race as well as a partnership with Nick Russell and Benton Brown at their music night at Hook, Line, and Sinker, all of the proceeds the group raises from their fundraising efforts help to fill in gaps in needs in the local community.

Highland Yard Race

The 50th in-person Highland Yard Race was held on Sunday, Aug. 6, in Minden. As Rotaract's first year organizing the long-running race, it was a year of firsts for the organizing committee. The proceeds from the race support the organization Places for People, which provides low-income housing and support for the region. Rotaract's inaugural year raised over \$22,000 and the organizing committee felt positive about their first year running the longstanding event.

"I think it went really well. It helped having such a helpful group from past committees to guide us along the way and give us suggestions and more guidance, and we are all looking forward to seeing how we can



Rotaractor Colleen Dermody gets ready to start the Highland Yard race in Minden on Sunday, Aug. 7. /Photo by Brad Brown

make it evolve. We are in a really good place from where the last organizers left it, but we are interested to see what things we can add to it to make it an even bigger and better event," said organizing committee member Natalia Brown.

With 183 racers for 2023, the Highland

Yard Race helps support an integral cause in the community as a lack of affordable housing remains an important concern throughout the Highlands.

"It is a cause close to our hearts as Rotaract members, because it is a cause that is largely impacting people our age. There is a housing crisis, there is a lack of affordable housing, it is hard to get into the housing market. Across the board it is a hot button issue in this community, and there are people who are literally sleeping in cars or who can't afford or find housing. It is a really invisible issue here, and Places for People does a great job about trying to raise awareness about such an important cause," said Ashley McAllister, race director and Rotaract member.

Rotaract Haliburton Highlands looks forward to continuing the tradition in the years to come and seeing the Race continue to grow and develop within the community, allowing more opportunities to support the work of Places for People in the community.

Music Night at Hook, Line, and Sinker

On Wednesday, Aug. 15, Rotaract joined forces with Nick Russell, Benton Brown, and the restaurant Hook, Line, and Sinker at their recent music night. With Hook, Link, and Sinker staff accepting donations all day long, the partnership allowed Rotaract to not only raise \$240 but to spread awareness about the work they perform in the local community.

Rotaract Haliburton Highlands has a number of initiatives offered throughout the year that allow them to work to fill in gaps in need in the community. One of the longest running initiatives is their Helping Hampers program, where they provide baskets of essential goods such as food, housing supplies, and school supplies tailored to the unique needs of each family.

"Any funds raised go directly toward purchasing necessary items like food, baby formula or diapers, toiletries, school supplies for kids, and more. At a time when the cost of living is so high, we hope to provide some relief to as many families or individuals as possible," said Vivian Collings, president of Rotaract Haliburton Highlands.

Rotaract Haliburton Highlands looks forward to returning the proceeds back to the community through their local initiatives, and the organization of young adults 18+ are always looking for more ways to get involved in the Highlands. To learn more about their work, to inquire about joining the organization, or to find out how to donate, email haliburtonrotaract@gmail.com.

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Answers on page 12



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Julian Taylor returns to Haliburton County

Acclaimed singer-songwriter Julian Taylor will be bringing his music, warmth and incredible voice to the Haliburton Highlands on Saturday, September 9, 2023 at the Northern Lights Performing Arts Pavilion. Joined on stage by three bandmates, Julian will be showcasing music from his recent albums, Beyond the Reservoir and The Ridge, as well as other favourites.

Julian's latest work has garnered him multiple awards and nominations and has solidified him as one of Canada's premier songwriters. His songs tell personal stories that integrate themes of family, loss, resilience and strength. *The Ridge* earned him his first two Juno Award nominations, along with a Canadian Folk Music Award for Solo Artist and nomination for English Songwriter of the Year. The album was also nominated for Canada's most prestigious music accolade,

the Polaris Music Prize.

The awards have just kept coming. In 2022, Julian won best male artist at the International Acoustic Music Awards and scored five Native American Music Award nominations. He has just been nominated for 2023 Folk Music Ontario awards for performing artist of the year and song of the year (for S.E.E.D.S.).

The *Globe and Mail* says, "Taylor is a unique and important voice on the Canadian roots and folk scene." Don't miss your chance to experience his talent here in the Haliburton Highlands. This show is presented by the Haliburton County Folk Society. Tickets are available online at www.haliburtonfolk.com. Youth age 18 years and under can reserve a seat for free. Get your tickets today!

Submitted

Cottage Culture: Gull Lake, Minden, Haliburton County

Of interest to cottagers everywhere, historians and genealogists alike, it provides a peek into Canadian cottage culture as it began on Gull Lake in the 1870s.

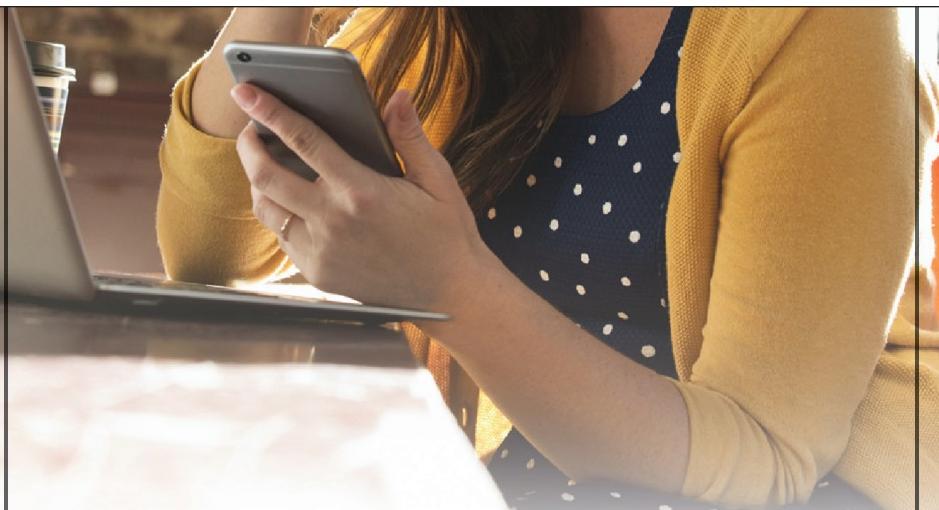
The book focuses on 37 families who have owned cottages on Gull Lake for more than 80 years. Many have written their own stories about when they came, what they did, and why they love Gull Lake. More than 170 photographs bring life to these stories. Other chapters include farmers who supported cottagers, the annual Regatta, the University of Toronto Survey Camp, world-renowned artists who sketched and painted in the area and places of special interest.

But Cottage Culture begins much earlier than that. It includes local information on Geology and First Nations people who settled here well before cottagers arrived.

Author Marilyn (Adamson) Hagerman is a current cottager on Gull Lake and grandchild of the Hoide family who arrived around 1902. She is also a member of the Gull Lake Cottagers' Association and Haliburton Highlands Genealogy Group.

Cottage Culture is available for purchase at the Minden Cultural Centre and at Master's Bookstore in Haliburton.

Submitted Marilyn Hagerman



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Notice of a Complete Application and Public Meeting Concerning a Zoning By-law Amendment Part Lot 30, Concession 10, Minden (PLZBA2023028)

Take Notice that the Township of Minden Hills has received a complete application under Section 34 of The Planning Act to amend the Township's Zoning By-law. The site-specific amendment applies to a portion of the property located in Part Lot 30, Concession 10, Geographic Township of Minden, being a vacant lot on Soyers Lake Road (see Key Map).

Purpose and Effect: The subject property is currently zoned 'Rural (RU)' and is located within the Waterfront designation of the Township's Official Plan. The zoning by-law amendment is submitted to fulfill condition of consent application H-052-22, which would serve to sever a portion of 1889 Soyers Lake Road for the purpose of new lot creation. The zoning by-law amendment would serve to rezone the severed lands from 'Rural (RU)' to 'Rural Residential Exception 13 (RR-13)' and 'Hazard Land (HZ)' to bring the new lot into compliance with the requirements of the Zoning By-law; together with recognizing a deficient lot area and lot frontage.

And Take Notice that the Township of Minden Hills will be holding a **Public Meeting**, as required under the Planning Act. The Public Meeting is an opportunity for Council to hear and consider comments related to the proposed amendments. Any member of the public may speak in favour or opposition to, the proposed amendment during the Public Meeting.

Date and Location of Public Meeting - PLZBA2023028

Date: Thursday, September 14, 2023

Time: 9:00 AM

Location: This will be a hybrid meeting.

Members of the public may attend either in person or virtually via Zoom. Details are provided below.



To Attend in Person:

Location: Members of the Public wishing to watch the meeting in person can do so by attending the Township Council Chambers, located at 7 Milne Street, Minden.

To Participate: Members of the public wishing to participate and make comment/speak at the Public Meeting must: pre-register by emailing admin@mindenhill.ca by Wednesday September 13th before 4:00 PM or by registering the morning of the meeting before 8:30 AM in the Council Chambers.

To Attend Virtually:

To Watch: Members of the Public wishing to watch the meeting can do so by joining the Meeting Live Stream Link:
<https://youtube.com/live/o1dEb14z-MY?feature=share>

To Participate: Members of the public wishing to participate and make comment/speak at the Public Meeting must: pre-register by emailing admin@mindenhill.ca by Wednesday September 13th before 4:00 PM or by attending electronically and registering the morning of the meeting before 8:30 AM. Once registered, participants will automatically be placed into a holding room and brought into the meeting as permitted by the Chair.

To attend the Zoom virtual meeting via Web, type <https://zoom.us/join> or <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82913206477?pwd=U202VGx1UUczWW1zd1M0N0k1SXNpdz09>

into your browser or attend by dialing the number below:

Telephone: 1-647-374-4685 or 1-647-558-0588

Webinar ID: 829 1320 6477

Passcode: 137969

Participants registering either virtually or in person after 8:30 AM will not be permitted into the public meeting.

Please Note: We encourage those wishing to view the meeting to also download the agenda as it will not be displayed during the streaming process. **Meeting agendas can be downloaded by visiting** the Township website at: <https://www.mindenhill.ca/council>

Written Submissions either in support of or opposition to the application must be received prior to the Public Meeting and can be submitted to admin@mindenhill.ca

Any Person may attend the Public Meeting and/or make written or verbal representation either in support of or in opposition to the proposed Zoning By-law Amendment.

Additional Information regarding this application is available for public inspection at the Township of Minden Hills Building and Planning Department by appointment only. For more information about this matter, including information about preserving your appeal rights, contact the undersigned at admin@mindenhill.ca or by phone at 705-286-1260 (ext. 506).

If a Person Or Public Body does not make oral submissions at a public meeting or make written submissions to the Corporation of the Township of Minden Hills before the by-law is passed, the person or public body is not entitled to appeal the decision of the Corporation of the Township of Minden Hills to the Ontario Land Tribunal.

If a Person Or Public Body does not make oral submissions at a public meeting, or make written submissions to the Council for the Corporation of the Township of Minden Hills before the by-law is passed, the person or public body may not be added as a party to the hearing of an appeal before the Ontario Land Tribunal unless, in the opinion of the Tribunal, there are reasonable grounds to do so.

If You Wish to Be Notified of the decision of the Township of Minden Hills in respect to the proposed zoning by-law amendment, you must submit a written request to the Township of Minden Hills at admin@mindenhill.ca.

Accessibility: The Township of Minden Hills is committed to providing services as set out in the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005. If you have accessibility needs and require alternative formats or other accommodations, please contact the undersigned.

Privacy Disclosure: As one of the purposes of the Planning Act is to provide for planning processes that are open and accessible, all written submissions, documents, correspondence, e-mails or other communications (including your name and address) form part of the public record and may be disclosed/made available by the Township as deemed appropriate, including anyone requesting such information. Please note that by submitting any of this information, you are providing the Township with your consent to use and disclose this information as part of the planning process.

Dated this 16th day of August, 2023

Vicki Bull, Clerk
7 Milne Street, P.O. Box 359 Minden, ON. K0M 2K0

Minden Times

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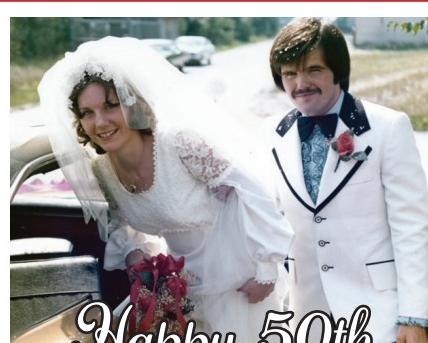
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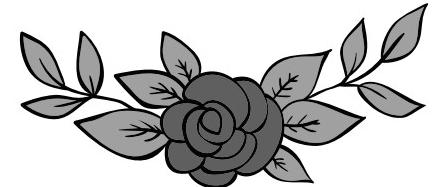
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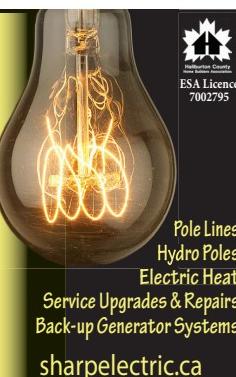
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LOOK INSIDE

**Leary pit**

Minden Hills council wants to find out if its bylaws are being followed.

See page 3

**In memory**

This year's Terry Fox Run is being dedicated to the memory of Libby Hurrel

See page 5

**Music by the Gull**

The concert series by the river gets a financial boost from the Minden Lions

See page 13

**O Canada**

Foreign visitors learn more about Canada at Trent's Kushog Lake retreat

See page 8

In Quotes

"These prices stink. It is outrageous."

Don Hawksworth as he filled up with gas on Wednesday.

See page 3

Overnight gas hike stuns drivers

by BRYN WEESE
Times Staff

Despite the warnings and regardless of the explanation, no one can believe that here in Minden, gas prices jumped 21 cents a litre overnight.

By 10 a.m. this past Wednesday, Minden's gas was selling for 119.9 cents a litre at all three stations in town. Cango raised its prices

at 8 a.m., Pioneer raised theirs at 8:30 a.m. and at 10 a.m., Ultramar joined its competitors. Even the Independent Gas Bar in Haliburton started charging 119.9 cents a litre by 11 a.m. Is no one spared?

"I've got to buy my own gas," says Independent Gas Bar Agent Grant Hutchinson. "We do not get deals on gas."

The record high gas prices are being directly linked to Hurricane Katrina's devastation of

the Louisiana coast, where a major oil import terminal was shut down. Also, the widespread loss of power around the Gulf of Mexico has shut down pipelines and refineries all through the areas that require power to operate.

This has substantially reduced the amount of oil available throughout North America. As a result of the shortened supply, prices inevitably had to rise.

see FILL'ER UP page 4



Daren Lum/TIMES
Meg Scott snakes her way through the poles during the pole-bending drill at the annual summer Gymkhana hosted by the Haliburton County's Horsemen's Association at the Minden fairgrounds last Sunday.

Conservation Officer is the best in Ontario

by BRYN WEESE
Times Staff

At least you were beaten by the best. That is what some anglers and hunters can now safely say about their run-ins with Conservation Officer Dan Smith.

In August, Smith was the recipient of four prestigious awards for his outstanding service to the Ministry of Natural Resources, his fellow Conservation Officers and, most importantly, the natural resources he has spent the last 27 years protecting.

At the Ontario Conservation Officers Association's annual meeting in Pembroke this summer, Smith was the recipient of four unassociated awards as Officer of the Year from: the MNR, the OCOA, the Ontario Midwest Fish and Game Association and the Shikar-Safari Club International.

The MNR Officer of the Year Award is perhaps the most prestigious. A committee of six people from around the province chooses the award: two enforcement branch staff, one district enforcement supervisor and the president, vice-president and treasurer of OCOA.

Smith, although modest about his achievements and awards, is obviously proud.

"I feel pretty honoured," he says quietly. Smith has been a Conservation Officer since 1978. He started out in southern Ontario.

"I was interested with the outdoors and natural resources and law enforcement," he says, linking the various reasons he became a CO. "There is nothing else I'd ever do."

In 1985, having worked almost his entire career in southern Ontario, Smith found himself in Minden as a "field guy."

Working his way up the ranks, as promising people do, he eventually became the District Enforcement Supervisor for Bancroft in 1997. He has enjoyed his time in this part of the province enormously.

see DAN SMITH page 2

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